AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The replacement sheet in the Appendix includes changes to the figure. The previously omitted element designations have been added.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to add section headings and the figure has been amended to add element designations. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings are respectfully requested.

The Official Action objects to the form of claims 1 and 5. These claims, and the other claims, have been amended to place them in form more suited to U.S. practice. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 were rejected as unpatentable over WIZIG 6,735,569 in view of IKEBATA et al. EP 0 895 750 A2. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

WIZIG describes a log-in process for a website which is relatively conventional. Here, user identification and a password are stored in a server-side database for each user. When a corresponding user logs-in, he inputs his user identification and his password. This corresponds to the disadvantageous prior art already mentioned in the introductory part of the specification of the present application. The feature according to which on the central server there are two different groups of features from which an individual-referenced feature is randomly selected does not follow from this.

IKEBATA et al. provides no indications in this regard. A stationary device is described there with which, for example,

access to certain spaces is controlled. Here, different physical features of the access-authorized individuals are stored within this device and such a feature or several such features are interrogated by a random choice. It should be noted that the device is a single, stationary device. This means that the user inputs his physical features on the same device which then also checks them and allows or blocks access.

If at this point one skilled in the art combines the WIZIG process with the one described in IKEBATA et al., he will connect the device according to IKEBATA et al. to the user-side computer and undertake a random interrogation of the physical feature there. The corresponding data about the physical features would then also be stored in the user-side computer. But with it one skilled in the art has not arrived at the subject matter of the invention, where the data about the physical features are also stored on the server, and there are two different groups of user features. Moreover a random selection from the two groups in the case of a combination of the two documents is not possible. One skilled in the art must therefore himself be inventive in order to arrive at the subject matter of the invention.

Even by the combination of references suggested in the Official Action, one skilled in the art therefore cannot find the features as claimed in the invention that on the server there are two groups of individual-specific features from which at least one such feature is randomly selected for interrogation.

New claims have been added that also avoid the rejection of record.

The combination does not suggest the two groups of claim 1 where the first group includes plural different ones of the person-specific features for the user and wherein at least one of the person-specific features in the first group always is selected and requested when identifying the user, as in claims 9-12. Neither reference suggests two groups, and neither reference goes farther to require that one of the first group always be selected.
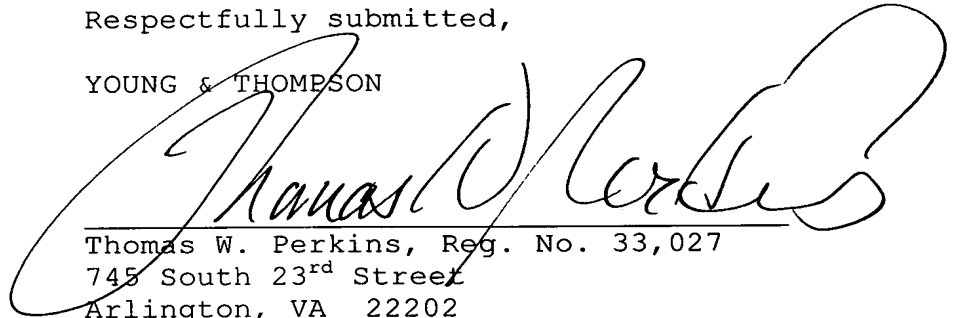
Claim 13 is allowable because the combination does not suggest the two groups defined in the claim, the random selection of one of the person-specific features from the first feature group and the random selection of a further one of the person-specific features from the first and second feature groups, and the user obtaining the requested person-specific features at a user computer remote from the central server and transmitting the requested person-specific features to the central server over the telecommunication network, where the central server compares the person-specific features from the user to the randomly selected person-specific features in the database to identify the user.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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TWP/lrs

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item:

- replacement drawing sheet